

**STATE OF NEW HAMPSHIRE
DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION
BUREAU OF RAIL AND TRANSIT**

CONFERENCE REPORT

DATE OF MEETING: November 20, 2013

LOCATION OF MEETING: NHDOT, 7 Hazen Drive, Concord NH – Kancamagus
Conference Room – RM 211

MEMBERS PRESENT:

Nik Coates, At-Large Citizen Representative
Terry Johnson, Healthy Eating Active Living NH
Mark Samsel, NH Rail Trails Coalition
Eric Feldbaum, Department of Resource and Economic Development
Erik Paddleford, NHDOT Rail and Transit
Regina Flynn, Department of Health and Human Services
Craig Tufts, Central NH Planning Commission
Rick Taintor, Portsmouth Planning Department
Jeff Latimer, Gus' Bike Shop
Scott Bogle, Rockingham Planning Commission

GUESTS PRESENT:

Larry Keniston, NHDOT Rail and Transit
Jim Kirouac, NHDOT Highway Design
Tim Blagden, Bike-Walk Alliance of NH

SUBJECT: Bicycle and Pedestrian Transportation Advisory Committee (BPTAC)

NOTES ON MEETING:

The regular meeting of the BPTAC was called to order November 20, at 1 p.m. by the Chair.

Approval of October Minutes

The minutes of the October 16th meeting were approved as corrected.

Filling Open Positions

Nik Coates indicated the BPTAC committee would be referred to as the steering committee. Nik proposed the following changes to the steering committee roster:

- Nik will move from the rural planning commission position to an at-large position.

- Craig Tufts from the Central NH Planning Commission will move to the rural planning commission position, formerly held by Nik.
- Tim Blagden, the new executive director of Bike Walk Alliance of NH will take the Bike Walk Alliance of NH BPTAC position.
- Dave Topham, will move to an at-large position representing the Granite State Wheelmen bicycling club.
- Felice Jenelle will replace Sherry Godlewski as the NHDES representative

The committee approved the changes above.

The committee discussed other potential committee members including someone from the police chiefs association and Will Stuart from the Manchester Chamber of Commerce.

The committee approved the following additional subcommittee members:

Matt Waikins - bike ped planning and design

Josh Mcallister - project manager at HEB Engineers - bike ped planning and design

Gretchin Gandini - wow trail executive director - outreach and marketing

Chris Constantino – staff planner for Town of Milford – subcommittee TBD

Commissioner's Blog Wrap Up

Nik congratulated the committee for the work on the “commissioners blog”, which was posted on October 28. A quote from the blog was mentioned in Centerlines, a national bicycle and pedestrian e-newsletter.

Are Bike/ Ped Injuries/ Fatalities Increasing in NH?

Erik provided information on bicycle injuries and fatality trends nationally and in NH. Data from 1992 to 2011 nationally showed a general downward trend in bicyclist and pedestrian fatalities. New Hampshire showed a relatively level trend in bicycle and pedestrian fatalities. NH pedestrian injuries have increased relative to all crashes. NH Bicycle crashes and injuries have stayed relatively level. The data only includes when a motor vehicle is involved and personal injury and/ or property damage is at least \$1,000.

Committee members felt other information should be looked at as well including bicyclist and pedestrian injury rates, where are the crashes happening, roadway type, time of day, etc...

A preliminary list of 40 intersections/ road segments indicating the expected pedestrian crash frequency was shown. The list was developed using Safety Analyst software by Tim Harmon, Safety Engineer at NHDOT. The committee would like to discuss this list further and have Tim give an overview of the software and how it can be used to analyze and develop bicycle and pedestrian crash frequencies and “hot spots” within the state.

Tim Blagden indicated that Senator Kelly Ayotte co-authored bill S. 1708 that, if enacted, would amend current federal law to require DOT to establish performance measures for states to use to

assess significant reductions in the number of serious injuries and fatalities (as under current law) specifically for both motorized and non-motorized transportation. This would create an incentive for states to reduce bicyclist and pedestrian fatalities. Currently there are no performance measures for non-motorized transportation

Subcommittee Updates and Feedback

Bike Ped Plan – There have been 2 meetings thus far. The subcommittee reviewed a number of other states plan in order to develop a potential table of contents. The group looked at vision, goals, and policies. Next meeting December 11th. Will need to coordinate with a counting subcommittee and mapping subcommittee.

Project inventory – In order to develop a statewide inventory, project data will be gathered from the following sources: NH bike ped grant applications, Regional Planning Commissions, Trail organizations within the state, and the state TE projects list. Once this data is compiled, it will be reviewed to determine if further investigation is needed to compile an all encompassing list of bike/ ped projects in the state.

Mapping program – Brainstorming included possibly using data already gathered by RPC's, working with local bike groups to determine where people are bicycling for transportation purposes and whether the current maps should be updated or to start fresh. Online programs where users map out their bike routes include Strava and Map My Ride, the group discussed the potential to use some of this data. Paper vs. online maps was discussed.

Counting program – This group has discussed manual and automated counts and developing a statewide system for manual counts. Forms for manual counts are already created. The group plans to research automated counts, demo equipment in the spring, and develop metrics for time of day and seasonal adjustments. A list of priority locations to count should be developed and a way to deal with requests for count data should be developed. The group needs to further determine what kind of data is needed and why and determine what the overall goals for the counting program are.

NH Grant Program – 59 letters were received from the initial application request. 26 of the 59 were chosen for the finalist round. The list of recommended grant recipients will be sent to the funding entity during the 1st week in December in order to award the grants by the end of the year. There should be another round of funding next year.

Design and Maintenance Committee – The group will look at various design guidelines and determine what problems exist and develop a guide for municipalities to use when designing or maintaining projects.

Biennial Conference – had a conference call to identify potential attendees, topics, and speakers.

Signage Program – Looking at NH Pass sign and working with the Traffic Bureau to expand the Upper Valley 3-foot rule signage.

Marketing and outreach plan – Commute Green is working on marketing and outreach plan and BPTAC may be able to work with Commute Green to come up with a combined BPTAC – Commute Green plan to promote bicycling and walking. Commute green is focused on more than bike and ped so that aspect of the plan would have to worked out so it works for both groups if the groups work together. Other topics for outreach included produce a video for public access TV, determine whether the group should hire a consultant, or spend money on implementation.

Advocacy Update

The vulnerable user bill (LSR 2311) has the following support:

Senate

Sharon Carson - R

House

Donald LeBrun - R

John Sedensky - R

Lenette Peterson - R

Chris Muns - D

James Verschueren - D

Clyde Carson - D

Earl Sweeney (Assistant Commissioner of DOS) and Mike Pillsbury (Deputy Commissioner) will provide feedback regarding the vulnerable user bill.

Advocacy Advance from Washington DC will conduct a seminar called Navigating Map-21 on March 20.

Sarah Marchant, President of NH Planners association has established task force on complete streets.

DRED is revising administrative rules Res 7300 - recreational use, Res 7400 – Permits, and Res 7800 – Administrative Fines. Public information sessions are being held on December 9th and December 10th. Public comments will be accepted until December 18th. Bicycles are referenced in the Hampton Beach Boardwalk and Franconia Notch Recreation Trail section of the rules.

Other Business

DRED will be hosting First Day Hike on January 1, 2014, which is a 50 state campaign offering families and individuals an opportunity to begin the New Year with an organized hike. Activities will take place at 3 NH locations: Milan Hill State Park, Milan, Monadnock State Park, Jaffrey, and Wentworth-Coolidge Mansion State Historic Site in Portsmouth.

Next Meeting: December 18, 1-3 pm, at DOT